

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 413
By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor Vanderbilt University professor, Mark Jarman, upon his nomination for the 1998 National Book Critic Circle poetry award.

WHEREAS, Tennessee's long and proud tradition of creative writers began many years ago with such revered authors as novelist Charles Todd; journalist W.G. Brownlow; humorists George Washington Harris and Opie Read; and writers John Trotwood Moore and Charles Egbert Craddock; and

WHEREAS, the talent and enthusiasm of these writers has spilled over into the twentieth century, as demonstrated through the works of outstanding modern-day contributors; one such creative spirit is Mark Jarman, a lauded Vanderbilt professor and a nationally recognized poet; and

WHEREAS, Professor Jarman has distinguished himself as one of five nominees for the prestigious National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry; he received the nomination for his critically acclaimed 1997 book of poetry, *Questions for Ecclesiastes*; and

WHEREAS, a venerable organization of approximately 650 renowned book critics and editors, the National Book Critics Circle will present the poetry award, along with four more awards for nominees in fiction, autobiography and biography, literary criticism, and general non-fiction, on March 24, 1998; and

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WHEREAS, as evidenced by his chosen career, Mark Jarman believes strongly in the magical incantatory power of the written word; he has devoted his life to bringing the rich and wonderful experience of poetry to all people; and

WHEREAS, prior to embarking upon his sterling career as a poet, Professor Jarman graduated with the highest honors in literature from the University of Santa Cruz and received his M.F.A. in poetry from the University of Iowa, where he was a Fellow in the Writer's Workshop; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jarman served as an instructor of English at Indiana State University, a visiting lecturer for poetry writing at the University of California, Irvine, and an assistant professor of English at Murray State University before beginning his exemplary tenure at Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, Professor Jarman began teaching and writing at Vanderbilt University in 1983, serving as an assistant professor and an associate professor of English before becoming a distinguished full professor in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Professor Jarman's superbly crafted works have garnered numerous awards and accolades, of which even a brief listing is inspiring; he received the Joseph Henry Jackson Award from the San Francisco Foundation and the Academy of American Poets Prize in 1974; he was awarded a National Endowment for the Arts Grant in 1977, 1984 and 1992 for poetry and won the Duncan Lawrie Prize in Sotheby's 1982 International Poetry Competition; and

WHEREAS, Mark Jarman was also the recipient of the 1985 *Crazyhorse* prize for poetry published in that journal, and the 1991 Poets' Prize for *The Black Riviera*, and was awarded the Lila Wallace/Reader's Digest Grant in 1992 to write the libretto for Michael Alec Rose's opera, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*; and

WHEREAS, he was also a John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation poetry fellow for the years 1991 and 1992 and recipient of the Robert Frost Fellowship in poetry for The Bread Loaf Writers' Conference in 1985; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Professor Jarman is most appreciative of the companionship he shares with his loving wife, Amy Kane Jarman, and their two beautiful daughters: Claire Marie and Zoë Anne; and

WHEREAS, it is only appropriate that this general assembly should recognize such a richly talented writer as Mark Jarman; by virtue of his special gift, this eminent poet has distinguished himself in the literary world and has brought great honor and recognition to the entire Vanderbilt community and our state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Professor Mark Jarman upon the receipt of his most recent literary designation: nominee for the prestigious 1998 National Book Critics Circle Award for poetry. We extend to him our most sincere appreciation for his numerous contributions to Vanderbilt University and our great state and recognize him for his many other laudable literary endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.